

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

March 17, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

I am writing in support of the City of Vancouver, Clark County Department of Public Health and Vancouver Housing Authority's joint application to the FY20 Community-Wide Brownfield Assessment grant program. The proposal requests \$600,000 to identify, inventory and assess hazardous substance and petroleum brownfields in the community's Fourth Plain Corridor. Grant funding is needed to attract business development, provide affordable housing and improve transportation options in some of the community's most economically distressed areas.

According to the City, the Fourth Plain Corridor is home to the most ethnically diverse population, as well as the oldest and poorest neighborhoods, in Clark County. Unemployment and poverty rates in this area far exceed regional averages. This project seeks to revitalize brownfields in the Fourth Plain Corridor which will attract new business and housing opportunities for low and middle income residents and grow tax revenues in an area that is currently underutilized.

The coalition has identified five properties that represent strong opportunities for redevelopment: a former radiator shop, the City's Public Works Operations Center, a former mechanic shop and a former dry cleaner. These locations are prime redevelopment opportunities to attract jobs, increase tax revenues and increase affordable housing options. The applicants plan to work closely with the EPA to build on past successes executing brownfield projects and leverage the community's long-term commitment to redeveloping brownfield sites for productive reuse, ensure a safe and healthy environment, and attract private investment to this distressed area of the community.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this important community development and public health project.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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